



U.S. Department of Justice

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER COLUMBUS ACCOUNTANT INDICTED

COLUMBUS: Maxwell Wood, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, announces that a federal grand jury has returned a twenty three count indictment against **DENISE NICOLE DYKES**, age 28, of Columbus, Georgia, charging her with Aiding and Assisting in the Preparation and Presentation of a False and Fraudulent Tax Return in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2).

According to the indictment, during tax years 2000, 2001, and 2002, **DYKES** prepared fraudulent Federal Income Tax returns for twelve clients claiming that they were entitled to deductions to which she knew they were not entitled.

The case is being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Melvin E. Hyde, Jr. is prosecuting the case for the government.

If convicted of the charges, **DYKES** faces a maximum sentence of 3 years imprisonment and \$100,000 fine on each count . These charges are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless or until convicted in a court of law.

For further information, contact United States Attorney Maxwell Wood or Assistant United States Attorney Melvin E. Hyde, Jr. through Pamela Lightsey, Community Relations Specialist, at 478-621-2603 or visit our web site at www.usdoj.gov/usao/gam.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

**MAXWELL WOOD
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**